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# THE HILLIER VIEW

## Kevin Hillier on the year in review

Time to reflect on another year where my Tattslotto numbers did not come up, my footy team did not win a premiership and there still seems to be not enough hours in the day to get everything done. On the other hand, my family is healthy and happy, I didn't get hit by a bus and I live a pretty good life. On balance I would have to say it was a pretty good year.

The frustrating thing is we are still banging on about the same issues. Traffic, over-stretched medical services, police numbers, poor integration of new residents, and a lack of commitment and accountability from many of our elected representatives. What makes any of us think these things will change?

The youth detention centre issue saw the community galvanised for the first time since the toxic dump. It was good to see and it showed that when we want to, we can be a very powerful force. The outcome served the best interests of the majority of the community. Those that went into hiding during that crisis have it on their conscience forever and deservedly so.

The announcement of the success of the

A-League bid by the Western Melbourne Group is reason to celebrate. It is also a timely opportunity for the City of Wyndham to boldly reposition itself as a city for the future. This new entity is more than just a team in the A-League. It is a passport to developing new and exciting ventures with global scope and potential. This requires people with vision, creativity, common sense, passion, respect for the area and the people who live in it.

There are a lot of people in the west who have all of those qualities and I hope they get an opportunity to show what they can do.

Thank you for reading this column and to those who have sent emails with feedback and thoughts. It is appreciated. As are the one-on-one encounters in supermarkets, footy grounds or in the street. Westpoint Ford has been the sponsor since day one and recently Chris Byrne, a friend of more than 30 years, sold the business. I am delighted Daniel McKenzie and the new owners are continuing that association in 2019. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at [kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au](mailto:kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au)



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**Volunteer award**

Wyndham council's volunteer program has been recognised with a state award. The council received an excellence award for demonstrating commitment to going beyond best practice in volunteer management at the Volunteering Victoria State Awards presented last month. Wyndham mayor Mia Shaw said there were more than 12,000 volunteers in Wyndham.

**Smart business**

Twelve emerging businesses have taken part in the Wyndham council's business development program, Innovate to Excelerate. The five-month program offers workshops and intensive mentoring sessions to business owners. Visit [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/business-investment/business-awards-special-events/innovate-excelerate-business-growth](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/business-investment/business-awards-special-events/innovate-excelerate-business-growth) for details.

**Train cancellations**

More than 600 trains were cancelled on the Werribee line between November last year and November this year, according to data released by Public Transport Victoria. In the previous 12 months, there were 561 trains cancelled on the line. In November this year, Metro delivered 92.1 per cent of all Melbourne rail services on time and V/Line delivered 86.9 per cent of services on time.

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